FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
14-83G	ORLEANS		EAS.787

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
Eastham Center

Address: 700 Samoset Road

Historic Name: John A. & Tamson G. Clark House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1859-66

Source: deeds, vital records, censuses

Style/Form: Greek Revival/crosswing

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:
Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard & wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
Window sash replaced, solar panels added, 2000s
Porch reconstructed, 2000s

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

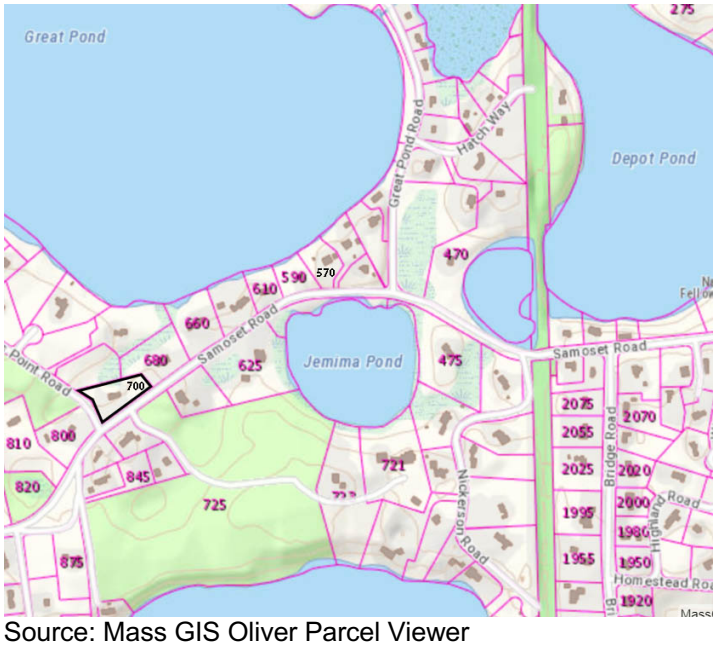
Acreage: 0.92

Setting: The house is located on the south side of Great Pond in the midst of a subdivision of summer cottages and permanent residences created from land once associated with it.

Photograph

View from south.

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The John A. & Tamson G. Clark House, built ca. 1866, is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a crosswing plan. Designed in a late iteration of the Greek Revival style, the front of the house has wide pilasters at the corners, a pediment in the gable and tall friezes with dentil courses across their tops distinguishing eave lines. The main entrance, on one side of a three-bay façade in the front-gable wing has a trabeated architrave with paneled pilasters and a dentil course across the top of the frieze matching the other trim. Windows on the fronts of both wings are decorated cornices with dentil bands. The cross-gable wing is exceptionally long with four bays with an entrance at the far end. It is stepped back from the gabled front with windows on the exposed portion of the side wall. A reconstructed porch spans the front of the wing. The gable end of the wing is one bay wide with an open-bed pediment; the rear and west sides have wood shingle siding.

The house is sited on a corner parcel with a long frontage on Samoset Road fron which is is set back behind a yard traversed by a looping driveway. Dense foliage screens the house from Clark's Point Road and characterizes the rear of the property, which descends into a wetland. Conservation areas are located on the south and west sides of the parcel.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In April 1866 Edward Cheever Clark (1788-1869) sold his son John Adams Clark (1834-1910) twelve acres bordering his own homestead between Great Pond and Samoset Road, and the house now numbered 700 Samoset Road was probably built sometime between John A. Clark's 1859 marriage to Tamson Gill and the 1866 deed.[1] The twelve-acre parcel on which the house was built was part of the holdings of the descendants of Benjamin Clark (1744-1824) and his wife Hannah Brown (1751-1842) and was long known as the Clark Estate. Harriet Brown Clark's father George Brown Jr. had acquired the tract In1754 from John Mulford, and according to one affidavit the property "was always considered owned by her husband, Deacon Benjamin Clark." It ranged north along Cape Cod Bay from Bee's River and west along the north side of what became Samoset (earlier Old Mulford) Road to the southernmost point of Great Pond.[2] According to late Eastham historian Howard Quinn, Benjamin Clark, his son Edward C. Clark, and Edward's son John "built houses next to each other on what we now call Samoset Road," though by 1988 Edward C. Clark's house was no longer standing. In 1812 Benjamin Clark deeded all of his real and personal estate except his furniture to his two surviving sons, George (1783-1842) and Edward C. on the conditions that they support him and his wife Hannah through their lives, pay his estate's debts, pay his three daughters and two grandchildren various cash legacies, and not sell any part of the estate in such a way that "I may be brought to want without my advise and consent."[3] After son George died in 1842, the property passed to his three children and Edward and his heirs.

John A. Clark was a currier (like his brother-in-law James Sullivan Hatch) and was living in his parents' household in 1859 when he married Tamson Gill, daughter of Nathan A. and Tamson Gill. In 1860 he and his wife were living with his parents and the family of his married sister Jerusha, her husband James S. Hatch, and their three children. Eastham tax records for 1863 and 1866 show that John Clark was paying taxes on real property even though the 1865 census continues to list him, his wife, and their son Nathan P. Clark in a house with his parents and the Hatch family. Edward C. Clark died in 1869, and the 1870 census lists John A. Clark as a currier with $1700 in real property in a household with his wife Tamsen and their son. By 1880 the Clarks had three more children—Eva M., born in 1871, Tamson A., born in 1873, and Jennie E., born in 1875. By that time John A. Clark had turned from currying to farming, and he was active in local and Republican party politics: he was a selectman in 1884, represented his Cape Cod district in the state legislature in 1892, and was a trustee of the town library in the 1890s and early 1900s. The 1900 census shows Clark as a farmer in a household with his wife and daughter Eva, who that year married Almond L. Nickerson, an Orleans native and fish dealer.

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[1] Edward C. Clark to John A. Clark, 30 April 1866, BCD 227:12.
[2] See Affidavit, Freeman Clark Hatch II, Eastham, 26 December 1973, BCD 1999:27; Affidavit, Hattie P Hatch, 1 September 1928, BCD 458:328; "Plan of Land in Eastham, Mass., Showing a Subdivision of Old Clark Estate and Site of First Encounter," August 1921, BCP 9:125; and John Mulford to George Brown Jr., 4 May 1754, recorded 17 November 1898, BCD 236:39
[3] Benjamin Clark to George Clark and Edward C. Clark, 27 November 1812, BCD 297:320.

The 1910 census shows John Adams Clark living in the household of his married daughter Eva, her husband Almond, a farm worker, and their children Ina M. (1902-90) and Virginia F. (1904-76). He died in 1910, and two years later three of Clark's children deeded the interests in most of their father's property to the fourth, Eva M. Nickerson.[4] The deed stipulated that neither Nickerson nor her husband could sell any part of the parcel without giving them or their children right of first refusal. In 1919 Almond Nickerson died at the age of fifty, and in 1920 Eva Clark Nickerson was listed in the census as an asparagus farmer living with her two daughters and a son, Almond L. Jr., born in 1915. Eva M. Nickerson died in 1925, and the 700 Samoset Road house passed to her children. In 1927 daughter Ina married Orleans carpenter and machinist Ralph Linwood Rogers (1896-1985), and the next year her sister Virginia married Clayton Horton of North Eastham. The 1930 census shows Ina and Ralph Rogers in this neighborhood, and almost certainly in this house, with her younger brother Almond Nickerson. Almond Nickerson Jr. married in 1936, and in 1940 Ralph and Ina Rogers were living in the Samoset Road house by themselves. Rogers was then working as a carpenter, and his wife was a lumber company bookkeeper.

In 1980, four years after his wife Virginia Clark Horton died, Clayton Horton deeded his one-sixth interest in 700 Samoset Road to his in-laws Ina M. Rogers and Almond L. Nickerson Jr. Nine years later Ina Rogers sold this property and 3.50 acres on the south side of Samoset Road to Cape Cod Bank and Trust Company, which three years later sold it to the children of Almond L. Nickerson II and Dorothy L. Chase—Almond L. Nickerson III of Guilford, Connecticut, Dorothy Malley of Springfield, and Sarah N. White of Clinton, Connecticut. In 1993 Dorothy Malley sold her interest in 700 Samoset Road to her sons Keith and Kevin and married daughter Karen Knecht. Almond Nickerson III subdivided the parcel in 1995, and in 1996 he, his sister Sarah, and the Malley children deeded over their respective shares to the Malleys and Knecht. They owned 700 Samoset Road until 1997, when they sold it to Sarah Blackwell. In 2020 the property as owned by the Sarah Blackwell Realty Trust.[5]

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[4] Nathan P. Clark, Tamson A. Nickerson, and Jennie E. Crosby to Eva M Nickerson, 12 March 1912, BCD 314:434. John A. Clark's 29 April 1910 will stated to his children, "As you have homes of your own, except Eva, I feel it my duty to provide for her a home on the old homestead. I therefore direct and request that the homestead from the shop lot on the East to the Wood on the west with the buildings standing thereon be held in trust by my surviving children, and that my daughter Eva M. Nickerson be given a lease of the premises above described until she is otherwise provided with a home or give her consent for some other disposition of the property; the lease to include in addition to the above a part of the Clark's salt meadow, and the privilege of using the wood that may be cut without empairing [*sic*] or damaging the same, also the farming tools I own in whole or in part necessary to carry on the farm, also one Truck wagon." Any improvements made on the property were to fall to Eva or her heirs "in final settlement," and Clark also stated that that "if any of my other children should through misfortune be without a home they shall share with Eva a home, and have share of the land set off to them, and the rent to be agreed upon with the other heirs, but not less than suffent [*sic*] to keep the House and wood house in repair and painted."

[5] Clayton O. Horton to Almond L. Nickerson, Guilford CT, and Ina M. Rogers, 4 January 1980, BCD 3040:292; Ina M. Rogers, 645 Samoset Road, to Cape Cod Bank and Trust Company, 12 June 1989, BCD 6776:280; Cape Cod Bank and Trust Company to Sarah N. White, Clinton CT; Dorothy A. Malley, Springfield VA, and Almond L. Nickerson III, Guilford CT, 18 June 1992, BCD 8111:176; Dorothy A. Malley, Springfield VA, to Keith H. Malley, Springfield VA; Kevin J. Malley, Indianapolis IN: and Karen Knecht, Trumbull CT, 19 August 1993, BCD 8753:293; Kevin Malley, Indianapolis IN; Keith Malley, Springfield VA; Karen Knecht, Trumbull CT; Sarah White, Higgham CT; Lois Nickerson, Guilford CT, and Almond Nickerson III, Guilford CT to Kevin Malley, Indianapolis IN; Keith Malley, Springfield VA; and Karen Knecht, Trumbull CT, 21 December 1996, BCD 10628:75; Kevin Malley, Indianapolis IN; Keith Malley, Springfield VA; and Karen Knecht, Trumbull CT, to Sarah Blackwell, Herring Brook Rd, 8 October 1997, BCD 11023:1; Sarah Blackwell to Sarah Blackwell, Blackwell Realty Trust, 1 June 2016, BCD 29732:295. The 700 Samoset Road house is depicted on Lot 3 of "Subdivision Plan of Land in Eastham Made for Almond L. Nickerson et als," 15 May 1995, BCD 530:45.

Continuation sheet 2

Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 1901. South Framingham, MA: A. E. Foss Publishing Co., 1901.

MAPS
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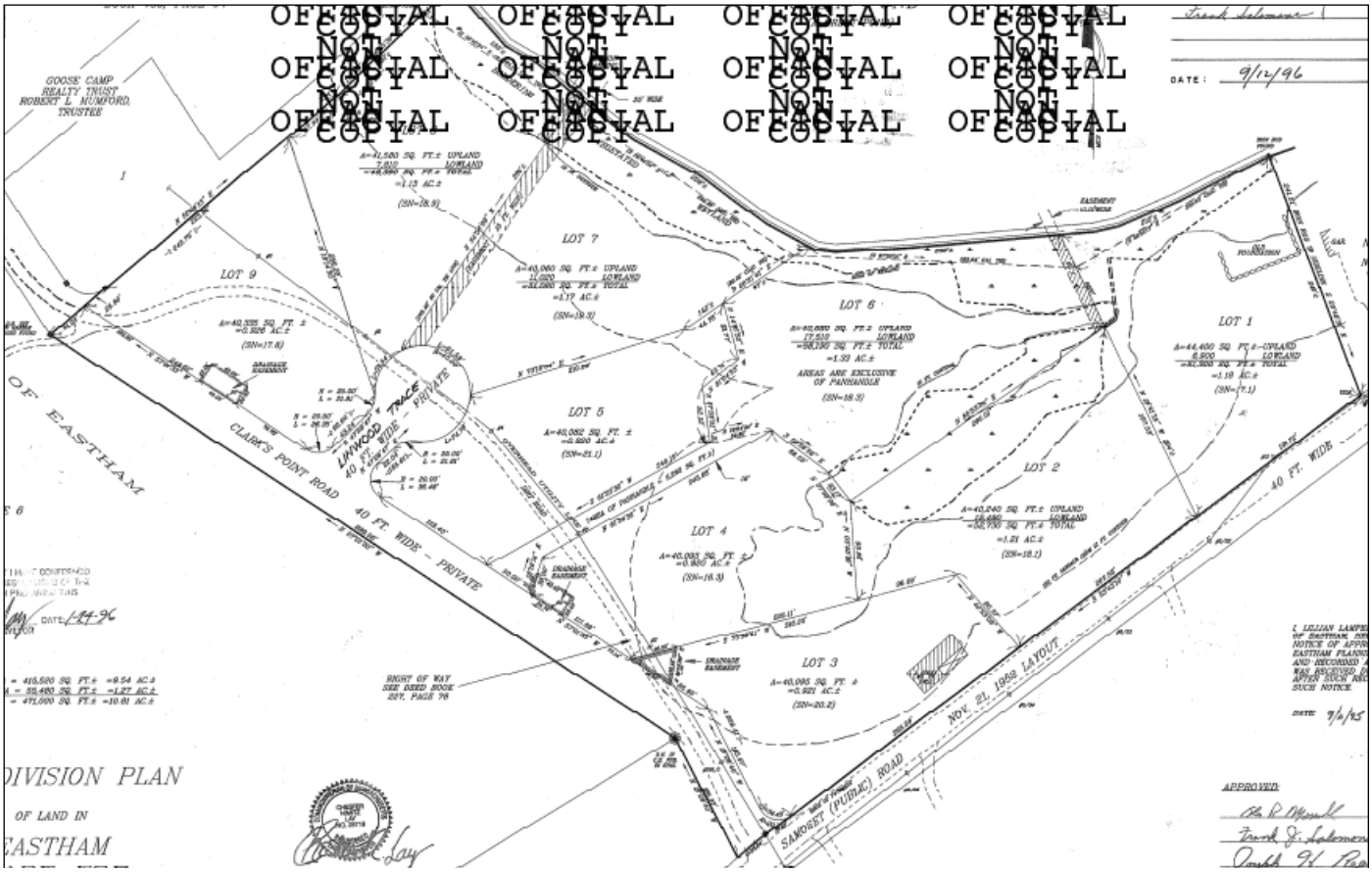
SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES



The 700 Samoset Road house is shown on Lot 3 on the north side of Samoset and the east side of Clark's Pont Road on this 1995 subdivision plan (BCP 530:45).

PHOTOGRAPHS
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View from SE.

Detail of entrance.